

REMARKS

Claims 1-25, 74 and 75 are pending in the application. Amendments to claims 1, 4, 11, 14 and 15 are requested by this paper. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-25, 74 and 75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. The claim is believed to be complete and clear in its rejected state. However, while not acquiescing to the examiner's position, but in order to expedite the issuance of a patent for subject matter indicated allowable, the claim has been amended to address the way in which the one or more components of the biological sample are resolved to create an enriched fraction according to one embodiment of the invention, namely chromatographically, as described, for example, with reference to Fig. 4 and 5; and the manner in which the enriched fraction is used to determine the expression pattern of the sample according to one embodiment of the invention, namely by an electrophoretic technique, a mass spectroscopic technique, or a combination of an electrophoretic technique and a mass spectroscopic technique, as described in the specification, for example, with reference to Figs. 4 and 5. This amendment is made without prejudice to further prosecution of the amended claims and/or subject matter in a continuation or divisional application.

In addition, claim 4 has been amended to correct the antecedent basis issue by deleting the term "hydrophilic" before "ligand" in line 1; in claim 11, the "," in line 2 has been replaced by "and" in accordance with the examiner's suggestion; and the dependency of claims 14 and 15 has been changed to claim 4 in order to resolve any question of definiteness due to the relative breadth of the dependent claims. Also, claims 1, 2 and 3 have been amended to consistently recite "one or more components" for antecedent basis purposes.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are clear and definite, and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

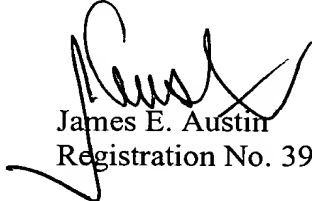
Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-25, 74 and 75 is gratefully acknowledged.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. CHIRP012).

Respectfully submitted,
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